

A contribution to the scelionid wasps (Hymenoptera: Scelionidae) from some regions of Eastern Iran

К фауне сцелионид (Hymenoptera: Scelionidae) некоторых районов восточного Ирана

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The Scelionidae were studied in some regions of Eastern Iran. In total 23 species from 7 genera were collected, among which two species, *Eumicrosoma phaeax* (Nixon, 1938) and *Sparasion punctatissimum* Kieffer, 1906, are new records for Iran.

Наездники семейства Scelionidae были изучены в некоторых районах восточного Ирана. Всего было собрано 23 вида 7 родов, из которых два вида – *Eumicrosoma phaeax* (Nixon, 1938) и *Sparasion punctatissimum* Kieffer, 1906 – являются новыми находками для Ирана.

Key words: fauna, Eastern Iran, Hymenoptera, Scelionidae

Ключевые слова: фауна, восточный Иран, Hymenoptera, Scelionidae

INTRODUCTION

The Scelionidae are exclusively egg parasitoids, with a wide host array, with host-dependent morphological specialization. They show high specificity in host partitioning at tribal level (Galloway & Austin, 1983). Attributes like high searching ability, high reproductive rates and lack of hyperparasitoids place them as highly potential and promising biological control agents (Orr, 1988). Of the three scelionid subfamilies, the Telenominae, the Scelioninae and the Teloschistinae, the first two are highly abundant, diverse and quite significant to agroecosystems. While the Lepidoptera and the Heteroptera are principal host groups for tel-

enomines, the Orthoptera, the Heteroptera, the Coleoptera, the Odonata, the Mantodea and the arachnoid spiders form the major host assemblage of the Scelioninae (Austin et al., 2005). The fauna of Iranian Scelionidae especially Eastern Iran was poorly studied and only with 27 species so far (Safavi, 1974; Modarres Awal, 1997; Radjabi, 2001; Sakenin Chelav et al., 2008; Ghahari et al., 2009; Samin et al., 2010a, 2010b). The aim of this research which is based on the collected specimens from three provinces of Eastern Iran (including Khorasan, Kerman and Sistan, and Baluchestan), is determining a part of these beneficial insects in this region and making a small step in completing of Iranian Scelionidae.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The materials of this research were collected from three provinces including, Khorasan, Kerman, Sistan and Baluchestan located in Eastern Iran. Sampling methods were sweeping net, malaise trap and rearing of some eggs of Pentatomidae (Hemiptera) for emergence of parasitoids inside the host. Egg masses of pentatomids were placed in plastic bags and in optimum condition (26 ± 2 °C, 65 ± 5 %RH, 14: 10 L: D) in incubator. Classification, nomenclature and distributional data of Scelionidae suggested by Kozlov (1978), Kozlov & Kononova (1983), Kononova (1992), Johnson (1992, 2010), Kononova and Kozlov (2008) have been followed.

RESULTS

Totally 23 scelionid species from 7 genera were collected from Eastern Iran (Khorasan, Kerman and Sistan & Baluchestan provinces). The list of species is given below.

Family SCELIONIDAE Haliday, 1840

Subfamily SCELIONINAE Förster, 1856

Genus *Anteris* Förster, 1856

Anteris simulans Kieffer, 1908

Material: Kerman province: Kahnooj, 1 female, 1 male, August 2006.

Distribution outside Iran: Palearctic: Republic of Moldavia, Ukraine, Russia, Azerbaijan, Danish, Germany (Kozlov 1978, Kononova, 1992; Johnson, 2010).

Genus *Scelio* Latreille, 1805

Scelio poecilopterus Priesner, 1951

Material: Sistan and Baluchestan province: Chabahar, 1 female, May 2007; Zahedan, 2 females, 1 male, May 2008.

Distribution outside Iran: Turkmenistan (Kozlov & Kononova, 1983).

Genus *Sparasion* Latreille, 1802

Sparasion emarginatum Kieffer, 1906

Material: Khorasan province: Serakhs, 1 female, March 2008.

Distribution outside Iran: Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Russia (Johnson et al., 2008).

Sparasion punctatissimum Kieffer, 1906

Material: Khorasan province: Bojnord, 1 female, 1 male, September 2005. **New record for Iran.**

Distribution outside Iran: Austria, Italy, Ukraine, Russia (Johnson et al., 2008).

Sparasion subleve Kieffer, 1906

Material: Khorasan province: Ghoochan, 1 female, September 2005.

Distribution outside Iran: Italy, Tajikistan (Johnson et al., 2008).

Subfamily TELENOMINAE

Thomson, 1860

Genus *Eumicrosoma* Gahan 1913

Eumicrosoma phaeax (Nixon, 1938)

Material: Khorasan province: Ghaenat, 1 female, April 2006. **New record for Iran.**

Distribution outside Iran: India, Japan, Korea, Romania (Kozlov & Kononova, 1983).

Genus *Psix* Kozlov et Le, 1976

Psix abnormis Kozlov et Le, 1976

Material: Khorasan province: Bojnord, 2 females, September 2005.

Distribution outside Iran: Afghanistan, Africa (Kozlov & Kononova, 1983).

Psix lacunatus Johnson et Masner, 1985

Material: Kerman province: Kerman, 1 female, 1 male, September 2008.

Distribution outside Iran: Pakistan, Thailand, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Australia, India, Laos (Kozlov & Kononova, 1983).

Genus *Telenomus* Haliday, 1833

Telenomus angustatus (Thomson, 1860)

Material: Sistan & Baluchestan province: Saravan, 1 female, March 2006 ex eggs of *Chrys-*

ops (Petersenychrysops) hamatus (Diptera: Tabanidae).

Distribution outside Iran: Austria, Sweden, Hungary, Romania, Russia (Kozlov & Kononova, 1983; Johnson, 1984; Samin et al., 2010b).

***Telenomus benefactor* Crawford, 1911**

Material: Khorasan province: Nehbandan, 2 females, March 2005.

Distribution outside Iran: Afrotropical and Palearctic and Oriental regions (Kozlov & Kononova, 1983; Johnson, 1984; Samin et al., 2010b).

***Telenomus beneficiens* (Zehntner, 1896)**

Material: Kerman province: Jiroft, 1 female, August 2007, parasitoid of *Scirpophaga novella* (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae).

Distribution outside Iran: Java, Korea, Taiwan (Johnson, 2010; Samin et al., 2010b).

***Telenomus chloropus* (Thomson 1860)**

Material: Khorasan province: Mashhad, 4 females, 2 males, October 2006.

Distribution outside Iran: Holarctic (Kozlov & Kononova, 1983; Johnson, 1984; Samin et al., 2010b).

***Telenomus dignus* (Gahan, 1925)**

Material: Kerman province: Jiroft, 1 female, 1 male, August 2007.

Distribution outside Iran: Taiwan, China, Japan, Java, Korea, Philippines, Pakistan, India (Johnson, 2010; Samin et al., 2010b).

***Telenomus remus* Nixon, 1937**

Material: Sistan & Baluchestan province: Saravan, 2 females, March 2006.

Distribution outside Iran: Malaysia, Taiwan, India (Johnson, 2010; Samin et al., 2010b).

Genus *Trissolcus* Ashmead, 1893

***Trissolcus basalis* (Wollaston, 1858)**

Material: Khorasan province: Ghaenat, 2 females, 2 males, July 2007. Parasitoid of *Eurygaster integriceps* (Pentatomidae).

Distribution outside Iran: Afrotropical, Australasian, Nearctic, Neotropical, Oriental, Palearctic (Johnson, 1992).

***Trissolcus crypticus* Clarke, 1993**

Material: Sistan & Baluchestan province: Iranshahr, 2 females, October 2004.

Distribution outside Iran: Pakistan (Johnson, 2010).

***Trissolcus djadetshko* (Rjachovsky, 1959)**

Material: Kerman province: Kahnooj, 3 females, 2 males, August 2006; Kerman, 1 female, April 2007.

Distribution outside Iran: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Moldavia, Russia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Turkey (Kozlov & Lee, 1988; Koçak and Kılınçer, 2000, 2003).

***Trissolcus festivae* (Viktorov, 1964)**

Material: Kerman province: Bam, 2 females, June 2007.

Distribution outside Iran: Moldavia, Caucasus, Kazakhstan, Russia, Romania, Turkey (Kozlov & Kononova, 1983; Tarla, 1997).

***Trissolcus grandis* (Thomson, 1861)**

Material: Khorasan province: Torbat-Heydarieh, 5 females, 2 males, May 2004. Khorasan province: Mashhad, 2 females, 3 males, October 2006. Kerman province: Kerman, 6 females, 3 males, April 2007. Sistan and Baluchestan province: Zabol, 3 females, 4 males, May 2008. Parasitoid of *Eurygaster integriceps* and *Perillus bioculatus* (F.) (Pentatomidae).

Distribution outside Iran: Denmark, Moldavia, Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan, Belgium, Syria, Morocco, England, Romania, Italy, Turkey (Javahery, 1968; Viggiani and Mineo, 1974; Kozlov & Kononova, 1983; Koçak, 2007).

***Trissolcus rufiventris* (Mayr, 1908)**

Material: Kerman province: Kerman, 2 females, 2 males, March 2007.

Distribution outside Iran: Russia, Morocco, Romania, Moldavia, Ukraine, Mon-

golia, Europe, Africa, Turkey (Voegele, 1964; Kozlov & Kononova, 1983; Koçak, 2007).

Trissolcus semistriatus (Nees, 1834)

Material: Khorasan province: Torbat-Heydarieh, 2 females, 2 males, May 2004. Khorasan province: Mashhad, 2 females, 1 male, October 2006. Kerman province: Kerman, 8 females, 5 males, April 2007. Sistan & Baluchestan province: Zabol, 3 females, 4 males, May 2008. Parasitoid of *Eurygaster integriceps* (Pentatomidae).

Distribution outside Iran: Palearctic. Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Caucasus, Russia, Morocco, England, Turkey, Romania, Portugal (Jawahery, 1968; Johnson, 1992).

Trissolcus simoni (Mayr, 1879)

Material: Kerman province: Kerman, 1 female, March 2007.

Distribution outside Iran: Georgia, Ukraine, Austria, Azerbaijan, Russia, Morocco, Syria, Romania, Turkey (Remaudière & Skaf, 1963; Kozlov & Kononova, 1983; Koçak & Kilinçer, 2003).

Trissolcus vassilievi (Mayr, 1903)

Material: Khorasan province: Nehbandan, 1 female, March 2005. Kerman province: Kerman, 1 female, 2 males, March 2007.

Distribution outside Iran: Turkmenistan, Turkey, Syria, Morocco, Armenia, Moldavia, Russia, Ukraine, Central Asia (Remaudière & Skaf, 1963; Voegele, 1964; Kozlov & Kononova, 1983).

DISCUSSION

The results of the present research which is a part of huge project "Iranian Scelionidae" indicate that the fauna of scelionid wasps in Eastern Iran is very diverse and on the other hand unknown. The largest provinces of Iran including, Khorasan, Kerman and Sistan & Baluchestan with numerous areas are present in Eastern Iran; therefore several other samplings are necessary for identification of scelionids fauna

in these regions especially in areas which sampling is very difficult there. Also as we expected the dominant species in Eastern Iran are two species *Trissolcus grandis* and *T. semistriatus* as the powerful egg parasitoids of sunn pest, *Eurygaster integriceps* Puton (Heteroptera: Scutelleridae). Many of the characteristics considered most desirable in a natural enemy can be found within members of Scelionidae. Species have been studied which demonstrate high searching abilities and reproductive rates, lack of hyperparasitoids, have synchrony with host populations, have positive host-density responsiveness, have simple adult diets, and can be reared easily. The advancements made in rearing techniques for these natural enemies should prove valuable in the future both in classical biological control and in augmentative efforts. Research which has been done in Eastern Iran indicates that a variety of approaches are possible for augmenting scelionid populations. These range from simple inundative releases to manipulation of preferred nectar-bearing plants. Although fewer than 30 species have been used in classical biological control attempts, several of these have produced excellent results. Also, scelionids interact well with insecticide applications due to the protective nature of host egg chorion. We propose to the conservation of these efficient egg parasitoids with management in pesticides application. With attention to the high diversity and density of these beneficial insects in natural ecosystems and also in agroecosystems with low pesticides application, these parasitoids can have effective role in biological control of pests if conservation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors are indebted to P.N. Buhl (Sweden), N.F. Johnson (USA) and L. Masner (Canada) for valuable help in progress of the project. We are thankful to F. Hosseinpour (Mashhad Ferdowsi University) for sending some specimens. The research was supported by Tehran Science and Research Branch (Islamic Azad University) and Suleyman Demirel University.

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Received December 9, 2010 / Accepted November 20, 2011